

STUDIES ON MIKANIA (COMPOSITAE) - X

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Preliminary study of the Mikania of Colombia has revealed the following new species:

MIKANIA CORDIGERA W. Holmes, sp. nov. (fig. 1)

Suffrutex volubilis. foliis ovatis, ad 8.5 x 7.5 cm, apice acutis vel acuminatis, basi cordatis, marginibus integro-revolutis, capitulescentiis thyrsoformis ad corymbosis, capitulis ca 11 mm longis, corollis 5.5-6 mm longis, dentibus limbi triangularibus, ca 1 mm longis, achenis ca 4 mm longis, pappi setis ca 5 mm longis, 40-45, marginibus scabridis.

Semiwoody liana, stems sulcate, setose to semi-hispid, ca 5 mm in diameter, fistulose, internodes ca 15 cm or more long. Leaves opposite, broadly ovate, 8.5 x 7.5 cm, palmately 3-5 nervate from the very base, apices acute to acuminate, margins entire-revolute, bases widely cordate, upper surfaces glabrous to remotely hispid, glandular, veinlets scantily visible, lower surfaces purple, glabrous, nerves and veins exerted from the surface, conspicuously reticulate, petioles ca 3 cm long, setose, channeled above. Capitulescence thyrsoid, ca 20 cm high and 10-12 cm in diameter, the heads ultimately disposed in thyrsoform corymbs ca 3-5 cm in diameter, bracts petiolate, ovate, ca 2.5 x 2 cm, greatly reduced upwards, bases truncate to a slightly cuneate insertion, otherwise similar to leaves, branchlets sulcate, setose; ultimate branchlets 1.5-3 mm long, sulcate to irregularly angular. Heads ca 11 mm long, subinvolucral bracts often borne slightly below the phyllaries, ovate, ca 6 mm long, obscurely 1-3 nervate, sparingly glandular, apices acute, hispid, bases attenuate. Phyllaries ovate-oblong to obovate-oblong, lightly glandular, ca 7 mm long, apices rounded, hispid, margins scarous, bases slightly swollen. Corollas white, 5.5-6 mm long, tube 2-2.2 mm long, pilose, throat turbinate to funneliform, 2.5-2.8 mm long, teeth triangular, ca 1 mm long, obscurely hispid and glandular. Achenes ca 4 mm long, pale brownish-green to brownish, remotely pilose. Pappus bristles 40-45, ca 5 mm long, white, margins scabrid, bases slightly connate.

Holotype COLOMBIA Huila, above Finca la Estrella on ridge S of Quebrada Cucaracha, one of the headwaters of Quebradas Damas, 12 km ESE of Garzon (Lat 2-8 N, Long 75-33 W), 2200-2700 m, 31 Jan 1943, Fosberg 19903 (US).

Mikania cordigera is characterized by its capitulescence that is transitional between a thyrse and corymb. The plant is recognized by its widely ovate leaves with cordate bases, heads of about 11 mm long, and corolla throat that is about 2x longer than wide.

A similar plant is Mikania lindleyana DC of northern South America and Panama. It differs in having corolla teeth that are greater in length than the throat, which is campanulate.

MIKANIA PAUCIFOLIA W Holmes, sp. nov (fig 2)

Herba erectis, foliis oblanceolatis, 3-5 x 0.4-0.8 cm, apice acuminatis, basi cuneatis, marginibus serrato-denticulatis supra media. Capitulescentiis corymbosis, capitulis 7-8 mm longis. Corollis ca 4.5 mm longis, dentibus limbi lance-ovatis, ca 0.7 mm longis. Achaeis ca. 2.2 mm longis. Pappi setis ca. 55, 4.5 mm longis, acabridis.

Erect herb 40-50 cm high. Stem terete below to obscurely angled above, glabrous; internodes 4-8 cm long. Leaves sessile, oblanceolate, 3-5 x 0.4-0.8 cm, apices acuminate, bases cuneately narrowed, margins serrate-dentate above the middle with three to four pairs of teeth ca 0.5 mm long, these ca. 0.7 mm apart, lower margins entire, surfaces glabrous, three nearly parallel major nerves originating at the base with the midvein slightly more prominent, these accompanied by an obscure outer pair of nerves also originating at the base and a few inconspicuous branch veins, all parallel to major nerves. Capitulescence a compound corymb, ca. 2 dm wide, each corymb ca. 8 cm in diameter and 6 cm high, long pedunculate, bracts linear, ca. 1 cm long, branchlets glabrous, ultimate branchlets 2-5 cm long, glabrous. Heads 7-8 mm long; subinvolucral bracts 4-5 mm long, lanceolate-linear, apices acuminate. Phyllaries lanceolate-elliptic, glabrous, prominently nervate, apices long acuminate. Corollas white, ca 4.5 mm long, tube ca 2.4 mm long, throat tubular to funneliform, ca. 1.4 mm long, teeth lanceolate-ovate, ca 0.7 mm long. Achenes ca 2.2 mm long, black, glandular, angles lighter in color, slightly scabrous. Pappus bristles ca 4.5 mm long, ca 55, white to yellowish, margins scabrous.

Holotype: COLOMBIA Meta, Municipio de Puerto Gaitan, Carimagua, 150 m, 24 May 1977, Forero 97 (COL)

Mikania paucifolia is the only non-twining species of the genus known from Colombia. Only one other non-twining species, *Mikania solidinervis* Badillo (Ernstia 7: 22-24 1981) of Venezuela, is reported from northern South America. That species differs in having a narrower and more racemose capitulescence, narrowly ovate leaves with one to two coarse denotations on each margin, and ovate phyllaries with subacute apices.

About forty species of erect *Mikania* are known, primarily from southern Brazil and adjacent countries. Most of these are easily distinguished from the new species by their capitulescences, which are either spicate or thrysoidal. Those with corymbose capitulescences can be distinguished by their wider leaves with other than parallel venation. Only *Mikania viminea* DC appears to superficially resemble *M. paucifolia*. However, that species is up to two meters tall, has an angular-sulcate stem, linear leaves, and larger heads and flowers.

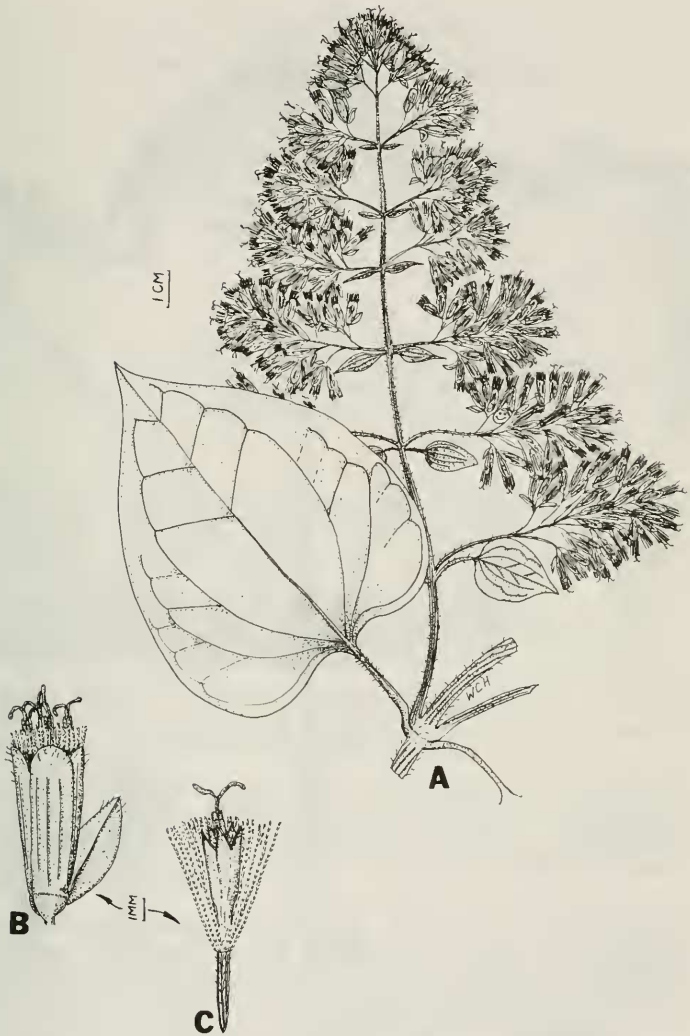


Fig. 1. *Mikania cordigera* W. Holmes. A. habit; B. head; C. flower and achene.

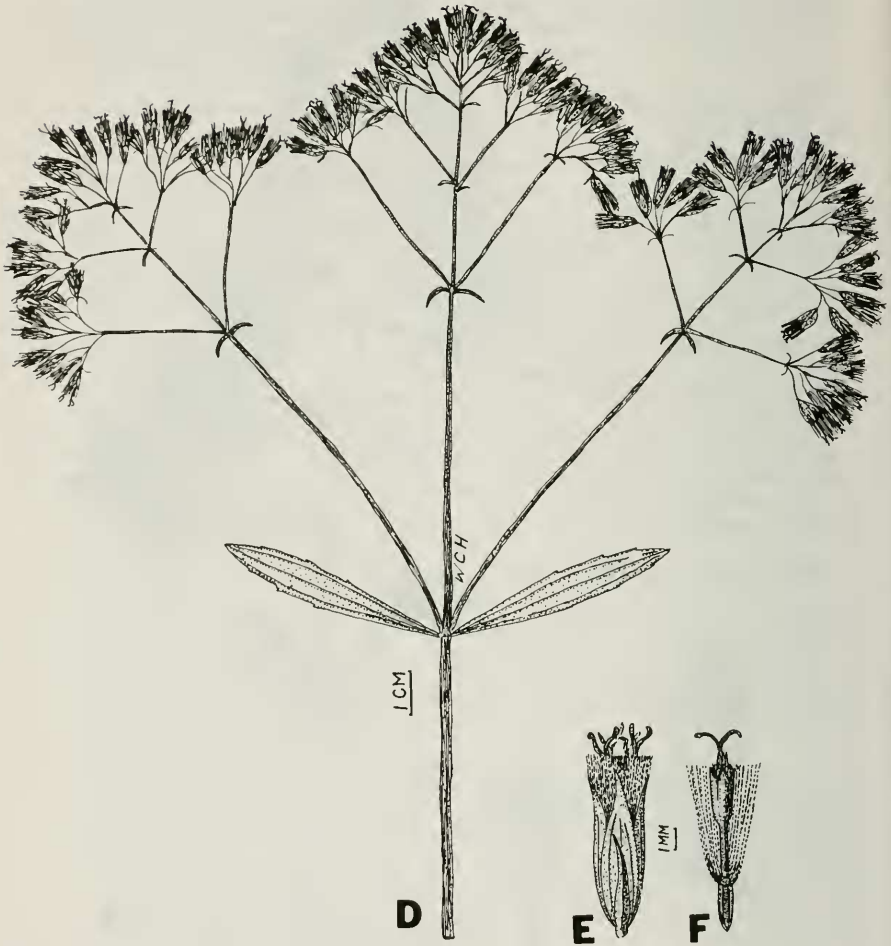


Fig. 2. *Mikania paucifolia* W. Holmes. D. habit; E. head; F. flower and achene.